

Regional Highlights: Impacts of Climate Change

Climate of the Nation 2012 • July 2012

Australia is a national highly impacted by weather, region by region, so it comes as no surprise that there are regional differences¹ in terms of concern for impacts of climate change.

Western Australia

Residents of WA are the most concerned about a number of climate change impacts among all Australians.

- + 88 per cent of WA respondents were concerned about water shortages in cities, compared to a national average of 71 per cent
- + 89 per cent were concerned about more droughts affecting crop production and food supply, compared to 78 per cent nationally
- + 83 per cent were concerned about animal and plant species becoming extinct, compared to 75 per cent nationally
- + 89 per cent were concerned about a more polluted planet, compared to 80 per cent nationally
- + 80 per cent worried about heatwaves and extremely hot days, compared to 67 per cent nationally
- + 74 per cent worried about rising sea levels threatening coastal communities, compared to 65 per cent nationally
- + 67 per cent worried about seasons not being what they used to be, compared to 55 per cent nationally
- + 83 per cent worried about more bushfires, compared to 70 per cent nationally

New South Wales

Residents of NSW were consistently less concerned about climate change impacts than any other Australians.

- + 66 per cent worried about water shortages in our cities, lower than a national average of 71 per cent
- + 76 per cent were concerned about a more polluted planet, lower than the national average of 80 per cent concerned
- + 61 per cent of worried about more heatwaves and extremely hot days, lower than the national average of 67 per cent
- + 61 per cent worried about rising sea levels threatening coastal communities, lower than the 65 per cent national average
- + 65 per cent were concerned about more bush fires, lower than the 70 per cent national average

Queensland

Queenslanders were less concerned about some aspects of climate change impacts than other Australians.

- + 64 per cent worried about water shortage in cities, less than the national average of 71 per cent concerned
- + 48 per cent worried about seasons not being what they used to be than average 55 per cent

¹ Base size varies between states from n=352 to n= 91, statistical differences are shown at the 95% confidence level.

Victoria

Victorians respondents were very close to the national averages on concern or lack of concern for all impacts listed, except for bush fires.

Victorians are more worried about bush fires (76 per cent) than Australians on average.

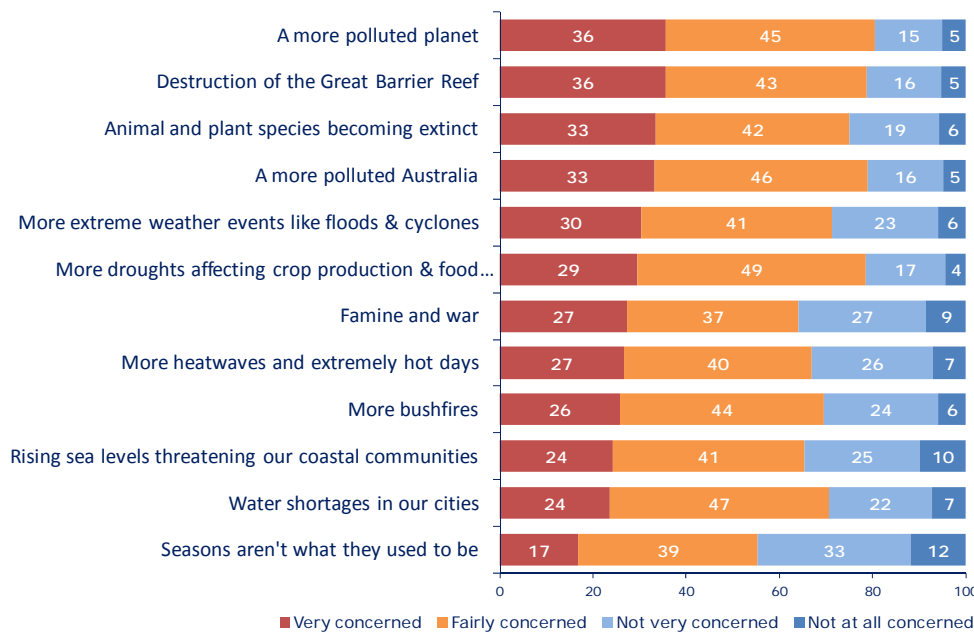
South Australia

Respondents from SA were aligned to national averages on all climate change concerns, with no statistically significant variation on any question.

Capital cities versus regional areas

There was no statistically significant variation between concern for climate change impacts between city and rural residents.

Figure 1: Concern about the impacts of climate change



Total sample; Weight: Location Weighting - ABS 2006; base n = from 1101 to 1111; total n = 1131; 30 missing; effective sample size = 1030 (93%)